

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application:

Claims 1 - 31 (canceled)

Claims 32 - 43 (canceled)

44. (currently amended) An improved method for treating osteoporosis in a mammal with an effervescent bisphosphonate solution, comprising:  
administering to a patient in need of treatment for osteoporosis an effervescent solution having a buffered pH of 4.5 to about 5.5, obtained by dissolving about 5,000 to 6,000 mg ~~4.3 to about 6 grams~~ of a solid composition in water;  
wherein said solid composition consists essentially of

(a) an effective amount of a bisphosphonate,

(b) about 51 - 52 wt.% of an acid component selected from the group consisting of citric acid and monosodium citrate,

(c) about 34 - 38 wt.% of an alkaline component selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal bicarbonate, an alkali metal carbonate and mixtures thereof, and

(d) a solubilizing agent.

45. (previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate, etidronate or risedronate.

46. (previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the acid component is about 45% by weight of the solid composition.

47. (previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the composition is in the form of a tablet.

48. (cancelled) ~~The method of Claim 44, wherein the solid composition has a weight of about 5,000 to 6,000 mg.~~

49. (previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the solid composition contains a solublizing agent and sweetener.

50. (previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein the solublizing agent is selected from the group consisting of a polyvinylpyrrolidone, a polyethylene glycol, a dextran and mixtures thereof.

51. (previously presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the solution has buffering capacity to mediate the patient's stomach pH for 15 minutes or more.

52. (previously presented) The method of Claim 45, wherein the amount of bisphosphonate in the composition is about 70 to 2000 mg.